

COVID-19 Vaccination Update, February 19

February 19, 2021, Friday

The challenges we have faced in providing COVID-19 vaccines, from changing supply patterns to fierce winter weather, are real, but today we want to look beyond them to focus on what you have achieved so far this year.

Neither snow nor rain nor gloom of night—nor yet heat, but that will come—have stopped you from swiftly completing your appointed rounds of vaccination. As long as there have been vaccines and people who need them, you, like the couriers of legend, have kept going. And here are the results:

- More than 26,000 members of our Mount Sinai family have now received both doses of vaccine.
- Another 7,000 have received their first dose and will receive their second dose after the recommended waiting period.
- We have also vaccinated as many patients as the vaccine supply would allow. Most of them, too, have now received both doses.
- Each of these numbers represents a person who now has a much lower risk of death or hospitalization from this terrible disease. And if preliminary indications are borne out by study, they will also be far less likely to pass COVID-19 on to their families, friends, patients, and other loved ones.
- Add these numbers up and we have the equivalent of a small city of people with this protection—all because of Mount Sinai and our dedicated staff.

You have almost certainly saved lives with this work, as we know you have with your clinical care for our COVID-19 patients. And you will save more before this is over. Please don't let either your understandable exhaustion from the unrelenting workload, or frustration over the current limitations of the vaccine supply, prevent you from appreciating this.

Also, please do not get frustrated or feel that your work has been in vain because there are new viral variants against which the vaccines may be less effective.

Judith A. Aberg, MD, Chief of Infectious Diseases for the system, explains why in this new *Mount Sinai Today* [article](#). Even if the vaccines offer less protection against a particular variant, they are likely to reduce the severity of illness, as the flu vaccine does. And the drug companies are working on booster shots against the new variants that could be available later this year.

Your work caring for our patients remains as vitally important as ever, even as the second wave appears to be subsiding. *Newsday* recently did a three-part video series looking at Mount Sinai South Nassau as it coped with this new wave. [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#) are all worth watching.

You may have seen the [video](#) yesterday in which a large group of our Health System's leaders "tipped their cap" to you. We too are extraordinarily grateful for everything you have done, and continue to do, for our patients, our Mount Sinai family, and our community. Thank you, and we wish you rest and recovery time this weekend or whenever you have time off.

Kenneth L. Davis, MD

President and Chief Executive Officer
Mount Sinai Health System

Dennis S. Charney, MD

Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
President for Academic Affairs
Mount Sinai Health System